

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8352

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7427

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: GOA CALLS FOR MEETING WITH ALL SECTORS: UCR ISSUES
ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

1. SUMMARY. UCR HAS ISSUED DOCUMENT CRITICIZING GOVT'S HANDLING OF A NUMBER OF ISSUES BUT EMPHASIZING INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS. GOVT, MEANWHILE, HAS CALLED FOR MEETING WITH PARTIES AND ALL OTHER SECTORS. THIS WAS NOT WHAT PARTIES WANTED; THEY HAD HOPED FOR SMALLER GATHERING IN WHICH THEY, AND ESPECIALLY BALBIN, WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS TO AND HAVE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH MRS PERON. END SUMMARY

2. GOVT BEAT POLITICAL PARTIES TO PUNCH IN ALLING FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. WHEN RICARDO BALBIN CALLED ON INTERIOR MINISTER ROCAMORA OCT 2 TO INDICATE OPPOSITION PARTIES WISHED TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT, ROCARMORA INDICATED MRS PERON HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO CONVOKE NATIONAL UNITY MEETING WITH PARTICIPATION OF MILITARY REPS, LABOR UNIONS AND OTHER SECTORS AS WELL AS POLITICAL PARTIES. DECISION TO CALL FOR MEETING WAS ANNOUNCED SAME DAY, OCT 2, BUT SO FAR NO DATE HAS BEEN SET.

3. UCR AND OTHER PARTIES ARE UNHAPPY WITH THIS TURN OF EVENTS. UCR CONTACTS POINT OUT THAT WHAT THEY HAD REALLY WANTED WAS PRIVATE MEETING WITH BALBIN AND MRS PERON ON THE ORDER OF
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THOSE FORMER USED TO HAVE WITH GENERAL PERON. THIS WOULD HAVE

BEEN FOLLOWED BY SOMEWHAT BROADER MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE OPPOSITION PARTIES. IN THESE RESTRICTED GATHERINGS, AND ESPECIALLY IN MEETING WITH BALBIN ALONE, MUCH MIGHT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. BALBIN WOULD HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN IN CONSTRUCTIVE WAY WHY UCR CONSIDERED SOME OF GOVT'S POLICIES TO BE MISTAKEN. IN MUCH LARGER GATHERING CALLED BY MRS PERON, THIS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE.

4. "IT SEEMS TO US," ONE UCR SOURCE COMMENTED, "THAT THERE ARE THOSE AROUND MRS PERON (READ LOPEZ REGA) WHO DON'T WANT HER TO MEET PRIVATELY WITH BALBIN." ANOTHER HIGH RANKING UCR CONTACT, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SUCH A PRIVATE MEETING WOULD STILL BE ARRANGED. FOR MOMENT, UCR AND OTHER PARTIES ARE TAKING THE POSITION THAT WHILE THEY WILL ATTEND THE NATIONAL UNITY MEETING CALLED FOR BY THE GOVT, IT IS SOMETHING APART AND DOES NOT RESPOND TO THEIR REQUEST FOR PRIVATE MEETING WITH HER.

5. MEANWHILE, UCR YESTERDAY ISSUED AN EIGHT PAGE DOCUMENT IN WHICH IT ANALYZED NATIONAL SITUATION AND SHARPLY CRITICIZED GOVT'S HANDLING OF A NUMBER OF ISSUES. DOCUMENT HAD BEEN PREPARED LAST WEEK. PUBLICLY, UCR IS SAYING DELAY IN ISSUING IT RESULTED FROM NEED FOR EDITING. PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, ONE UCR SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT IT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN INTENDED TO HOLD OFF ON RELEASE UNTIL AFTER A BALBIN-MRS PERON MEETING. BALBIN WOULD THEN HAVE HAD CHANCE TO EXPRESS POINTS PRIVATELY AND UCR MIGHT HAVE THEN PUBLICLY ISSUED A CONSIDERABLY SOFTER VERSION OF ITS POSITION PAPER. WITH GOVT'S EVASION ACTION ON MEETING WITH BALBIN, HOWEVER, UCR DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF PAPER IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

6. DOCUMENT EMPHASIZES THAT UCR WANTS TO CONTINUE TO CONTRIBUTE TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS AND THAT CRITICISM IS OFFERED IN CONSTRUCTIVE WAY. IT THEN LAMENTS WAVE OF VIOLENCE FROM BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT AND SAYS THAT WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO BLAME GOVT, THERE NO DOUBT THAT SOME OF GOVT'S POLICIES HAD HELPED CREATE ATMOSPHERE OF UNCERTAINTY CONDUCIVE TO VIOLENCE. UCR HAD WARNED GOVT BEFORE BUT WARNINGS HAD GONE UNHEEDED. DOCUMENT THEN SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED GOVT'S HANDLING OF UNIVERSITY SITUATION, ISSUANCE OF REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION (I.E., NEW ANTI SUBVERSION LAW), HANDLING OF ECONOMY, AND DISTURBING POLITICAL DIRECTIONS. ON LAST CONFIDENTIAL

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POINT, UCR MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY GOVT'S TENDENCY TO USE MEDIA FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES WHILE DENYING TIME TO OTHER PARTIES. REST OF DOCUMENT IN EFFECT CALLS ON GOVT TO HEED ADVICE AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS. EMBASSY ASSUMES DEPT WILL SHORTLY HAVE FULL TEXT VIA FBIS.

7. AS YET, THERE HAS BEEN NO GOVT REACTION TO UCR STATEMENT. GOVT MAY HOLD ANY REPLY UNTIL NATIONAL UNITY MEETING, WHENEVER

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